

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

On 16 May 2011, a proposed claim amendment to place the application in condition for allowance was discussed with Mr. Andrew Freistein, Applicants' attorney, in a telephone interview. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Andrew Freistein on 18 May 2011.

The application has been amended as follows:

- Claims 14, 15, 17, 18, 20-22, 26, 27 and 30-35 have been amended, as listed below.
- Claims 1-4 and 6-12 have been cancelled, as listed below.
- Note: For those claims that are neither amended nor canceled as indicated in this Examiner's Amendment, see the amendment filed by Applicants on 17 March 2011.
- An amendment to the Abstract is included in this Examiner's amendment.

14. (Currently amended) The process for preparing a molded article according to claim 13,

wherein the process further comprises the step of:

cooling a solution comprising the high molecular weight linear α -1,4-glucan and the low molecular weight linear α -1,4-glucan to gel the solution, wherein

the low molecular weight linear α -1,4-glucan has a degree of polymerization of greater than or equal to 180 and less than 620, and has a molecular weight distribution of not greater than 1.25 and,

the high molecular weight linear α -1,4-glucan has a degree of polymerization of greater than or equal to 620 and less than 37000, and has a molecular weight distribution of not greater than 1.25.

15. (Currently amended) The process for preparing a molded article according to claim 13,

wherein the process further comprises the step of:

neutralizing an alkaline solution comprising the high molecular weight linear α -1,4-glucan and the low molecular weight linear α -1,4-glucan to gel the solution, wherein

the low molecular weight linear α -1,4-glucan has a degree of polymerization of greater than or equal to 180 and less than 620, and has a molecular weight distribution of not greater than 1.25 and,

the high molecular weight linear α -1,4-glucan has a degree of polymerization of greater than or equal to 620 and less than 37000, and has a molecular weight distribution of not greater than 1.25.

Claims 17, 18, 20-22, 26, 27, 30-25 (Currently amended) Please replace “A” with “The” at the beginning of each claim, first word of claims.

Replace ABSTRACT with the following:

The present application discloses a molded article, and a process for preparing a molded article consisting essentially of (i) high molecular weight linear α -1,4-glucan

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and (ii) low molecular weight linear α -1,4-glucan, wherein the process comprises the step of: adding the low molecular weight linear α -1,4-glucan to a solution comprising the high molecular weight linear α -1,4-glucan to gel the solution, wherein the low molecular weight linear α -1,4-glucan has a degree of polymerization of greater than or equal to 180 and less than 620, and has a molecular weight distribution of not greater than 1.25 and, the high molecular weight linear α -1,4-glucan has a degree of polymerization of greater than or equal to 620 and less than 37000, and has a molecular weight distribution of not greater than 1.25.

DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action details reasons for allowance. Claim(s) 1-4 and 6-12 have been canceled. Claim(s) 13-15, 17, 18, 20-22, 26, 27 and 30-35 have been amended. Claim(s) 13-15, 17, 18, 20-22, 26, 27 and 30-35 (renumbered 1-16) are in condition for allowance.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE: WITHDRAWN REJECTIONS

Applicant's amendment, filed 17 March 2011, with respect to the rejection of claims 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness, has been fully considered and is persuasive. The recitation "wherein **a** weight ratio" has been amended to recite "wherein **the** weight ratio". The claims as amended more specifically claims the subject matter disclosed and supported in Applicant's Specification.

The rejection is hereby **withdrawn**.

Applicant's amendment and arguments filed 17 March 2011, with respect to the rejection of claims 13-15, 17, 18, 20-22, 26, 27 and 30-35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hausmanns (WO02/102355) in view of Bengs et al. (WO01/85836; US 6908885 as English Equivalent) as evidenced by IUPAC Gold Book, has been fully considered and is persuasive.

The claims as amended recite "a molded article consisting essentially of: (i) high molecular weight linear α -1,4-glucan and low molecular weight linear α -1,4-glucan". As argued by Applicant, Hausmanns starch consists of only 20% linear α -1,4-glucan,

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whereas the remaining 80% is non-linear α -1,4-glucan. In view of Hausmanns, it would not have been obvious at the time the invention was made to mix a low molecular weight **linear** α -1,4-glucan with a high molecular weight **linear** α -1,4-glucan to tell the solution for preparing a molded article. The claim as amended more specifically claims the subject matter disclosed and supported in Applicant's Specification.

The rejection is hereby **withdrawn**.

Conclusion

The Examiner's amendment is sufficient to place the application in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, claims 13-15, 17, 18, 20-22, 26, 27 and 30-35 (renumbered 1-16) currently amended are sufficient to place the application in condition for allowance.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ms. BAHAR SCHMIDTMANN whose telephone number is (571)270-1326. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 9:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ms. Shaojia Anna Jiang can be reached on 571-272-0627. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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